

**REMARKS**

Applicants request the entry of Preliminary Amendment A prior to the first Office Action on the merits of the application. This Amendment amends claims 2-18, 20, 21, 23-30 and 32-47. Claims 1-47 are submitted for consideration. Applicants request examination and allowance of the application as amended.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Barta, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

James J. Barta, Jr., Reg. No. 47,409  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that this Preliminary Amendment A in the application of Wassmann et al., Serial No. 10/653,708, filed September 2, 2003 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on this 29 day of July, 2004.

  
Christie L. Hartmann

JJB/BAW/clh